

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 8, 2013

0130

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to urge the Federal Communications Commission to consider ways to fully utilize all currently available Connect America Fund (CAF) resources in 2013. Especially in states like Iowa, too few Americans have access to reliable broadband service in their homes and businesses. Such access is critical to economic growth, job creation and global competitiveness.

We are grateful that the FCC has set aside \$600 million for the first phase of this transition, CAF-1. We are concerned, however, about the rules the Commission has put into place concerning the deployment of CAF-1 funds. These rules appear so restrictive that it is difficult for carriers to utilize them to deploy broadband, including in Iowa. There is clear evidence that more flexibility is needed so available funds can be used to expand broadband to consumers and businesses, especially in rural areas.

We agree with the goal the FCC stated in its December 28th Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that the CAF rules should be refined to enable price cap carriers to bring service to unserved and underserved households as quickly as possible. We applaud the FCC for issuing the NPRM, making clear your willingness to reexamine the funding guidelines. In establishing rules, the FCC should ensure enough flexibility that all the funds remaining can and will be allocated.

The ability of rural Americans, like those in our state, to compete in the digital age depends on access to reliable broadband. It is critical for our rural constituents that vital funds set aside for CAF not be lost and that they be utilized as fully as possible for rural broadband deployment.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Charles Grassley
United States Senator



Federal Communications Commission
Office of Legislative Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20554

Office of the Director

February 27, 2013

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in its Universal Service Connect America Fund (CAF) proceeding. The Commission is dedicated to distributing all CAF funds in the most effective manner to preserve and advance voice and broadband service, including accelerating the deployment of modern communications networks to consumers who lack access to robust broadband. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Guice", is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory Guice
Director
Office of Legislative Affairs



**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Legislative Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Office of the Director

February 27, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

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